

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

After paragraph 0006, please add the following new paragraph:

[0006.1] Figure 1A is a partial perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph 0024 as follows:

[0024] The lateral supports 16 may be of the type manufactured by Sonoco Products Company of Hartsville, South Carolina and described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,482,054; 5,593,039; 6,059,104 and 6,186,329, incorporated herein by reference. Each lateral support 16 may be formed from a sheet of laminated paperboard that has been convolutely wound and formed into the desired tubular shape. As best shown in Figure 2, each support 16 has a substantially rectangular cross-sectional profile. In the illustrated embodiment, a pair of opposing beads 46 is integrally formed in the upper and lower surfaces of the support 16 for added strength and stiffness. It should be noted, however, that the supports 16 may be any suitable configuration, including configurations having a circular or triangular cross-sectional profile. For example, Figure 1A is a partial perspective view of a pallet in which circular supports 16' are inserted through perforated tabs 18'. The supports 16, 16' provide lateral strength so the pallet 10 can be handled with a clamp truck and help distribute the product weight to the corrugated runners 12.